

A NEW SPECIES OF *STEVIA* (ASTERACEAE) FROM CERRO QUIEXOBRA,
OAXACA, MEXICO

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ABSTRACT

Stevia quiexobra B.L. Turner, *spec. nov.* is described from Cerro Quiexobra, Oaxaca, México, where it occurs in pine-fir forests at ca. 3400 m.

KEY WORDS: Asteraceae, *Stevia*, México, Oaxaca, systematics

Stevia is represented in México by numerous species, most of these treated by Grashoff (1972). Since the latter's treatment, numerous additional species have been added, the most recent being those of Turner (1995) and Yahara & Soejima (1995). I add here a newly discovered taxon from Cerro Quiexobra, Oaxaca.

STEVIA QUIEXOBRA B.L. Turner *spec. nov.* TYPE: MEXICO. Oaxaca: Distrito Miahuatlán, Cerro Quiexobra, 3385 m, "steep fir and pine woods", 15 Oct 1995, *Hinton et al.* 26141 (TEX).

Similis *S. perfoliatae* Cronq. sed foliis non perfoliatis et achenibus exaristatis.

Perennial rhizomatous herbs 20-30 cm high. Stems with a dense vestiture of glandular-capitate trichomes about 0.5 m high. Leaves mostly opposite (except for 3-5 uppermost leaves), gradually reduced upwards. Midstem leaves ovate to ovate-elliptic, sessile or nearly so, widest at or about the middle, 3-4 cm long, 1.0-1.8 cm wide, with 3 principal nerves arising from above the base, glandular-punctate on both surfaces, glandular pubescent like the stems, the margins weakly crenate. Heads arranged in bracteate congested glomerules ca. 1.5 cm high, 1.5 cm across. Subtending bracts glandular pubescent, similar to the involueral bracts. Involucres ca. 7 mm high, sparsely glandular pubescent to glabrous. Corolla tubes ca. 5 mm long, sparsely pubescent; lobes 1.5-2.0 mm long, sparsely pubescent on the outer surfaces. Achenes (immature) all alike, ca. 4.5 mm long, glabrous except for a few hispid hairs near the apices; pappus a crown of short scales ca. 0.75 mm high.

This taxon is known only by the type; label data note it to occur as "thin colonies 0.3 m high." Because of its broad sessile glandular pubescent leaves, *S. quixobra* is readily distinguished from most other Mexican taxa. It is seemingly most closely related to *S. perfoliata* Cronq., but lacks the perfoliate leaves and aristate achenes of that species.

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LITERATURE CITED

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